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Air Ministry, 8th January, 1943.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy:—

On the 6th December, 1942, a force of bombers was detailed to make an attack in daylight on the Philips Factory at Eindhoven. The operation, which was executed faultlessly, demanded a high degree of skill and accurate timing. Bombs were released at varying heights, down to roof top level. Many hits were obtained, some in the centre of the target area. Two gun posts were silenced. Intense and heavy opposition was encountered and both on the outward and return flights attacks were made by enemy fighters. The great success achieved reflects the greatest credit on the following personnel who participated in various capacities as leaders and members of aircraft crews:—

Distinguished Service Order.

Wing Commander Hughie Idwal EDWARDS, V.C., D.F.C. (39905), No. 105 Squadron.

Wing Commander James Ernest Pelly-Fry (37118), No. 88 Squadron.

Wing Commander Ronald Hildyard YOUNG, A.F.C. (32214), No. 464 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Wing Commander Richard Julian Paget PRICHARD, A.F.C. (36109), No. 21 Squadron.

Squadron Leader Ronald John Neil MacLACHLAN (45225), No. 107 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Jack Edward HOULSTON, A.F.C. (44484) (since missing), No. 139 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Ernest Frank HART (45488) No. 464 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Thomas Henry Joseph CAIRNS, D.F.M. (46338), No. 88 Squadron.

Flying Officer Harold Herbert Edwin Patrick CAIRNS (46969), No. 105 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Cecil Arthur EVANS, D.F.M. (132354), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 88 Squadron.

Pilot Officer John Marquis RANKIN (117925), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 107 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Can/R.72828 Sergeant William Herbert Champion LEAVITT, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 226 Squadron.

1383008 Flight Sergeant George Edward Teasdale NICHOLS, No. 107 Squadron.

Air Ministry, 8th January, 1943.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

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Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Wing Commander Raymond Myles Beecham DUKE-WOOLLEY, D.F.C. (33241).

By his outstanding leadership and untiring efforts, Wing Commander Duke-Woolley has con-

tributed much to the successes attained by his Wing. Since June, 1942, he has led his formation in many raids over enemy occupied territory, in the course of which 28 enemy aircraft were destroyed. Wing Commander Duke-Woolley has completed successfully a large number of operational sorties and has displayed outstanding qualities of airmanship and tactical skill. He has destroyed at least 10 enemy aircraft.

Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Wing Commander Donald PEVELER, D.F.C. (42764).

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Pilot Officer Herbert William Joseph STEWART (Can/J.15539), Royal Canadian Air Force.

In December, 1942, Wing Commander Peveler and Pilot Officer Stewart, were captain and rear gunner respectively of an aircraft engaged in a search for the crew of an aircraft lost at sea. When leaving the area after searching for 12 hours, 3 Junkers 88's attacked their aircraft. Pilot Officer Stewart gave a splendid running commentary on the movement of the enemy aircraft which enabled his captain to take evasive action. Wing Commander Peveler manoeuvred his aircraft with superb skill and determination until safety was gained in the clouds, but the bomber had been damaged and the second pilot and bomb aimer wounded. Some time later a further attack was made by 3 Focke Wulfe 190's. In the ensuing combat, despite the heavy odds, Pilot Officer Stewart, by his accurate shooting, shot down one of the fighters and damaged another while the third was driven off. Displaying magnificent airmanship Wing Commander Peveler flew his badly damaged aircraft safely back to this country. Pilot Officer Stewart's coolness and gallantry very materially assisted his captain throughout this hazardous operation. Wing Commander Peveler has always displayed outstanding leadership and an example of devotion to duty worthy of the highest praise.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Hugo Thrussell ARMSTRONG, D.F.C. (Aus.406022), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 611 Squadron.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross Squadron Leader Armstrong has participated in many sorties over enemy occupied territory during which he has destroyed a further 4 enemy fighters and probably destroyed 2 others. His great powers of leadership have contributed largely to the successes achieved by his squadron. This officer's keenness to engage the enemy at all times and his excellent escort work have set an inspiring example to all.

Wing Commander Basil Vernon ROBINSON, D.S.O., D.F.C. (34089), No. 35 Squadron.

One night in November, 1942, during an operational sortie against Turin, this officer displayed great gallantry and determination when a dangerous fire broke out in his aircraft. Owing